Popular Perk

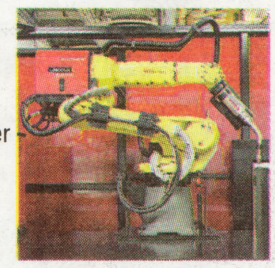
For many WCC students, the college's Children's Center is a resource that's vital to pursuing their educational goals. Meet one such student, and her son, on PAGE 4

Music Makers

A passion for music and learning unites the WCC Jazz Combo today, but the popular group was formed by accident. Read how on PAGE 5

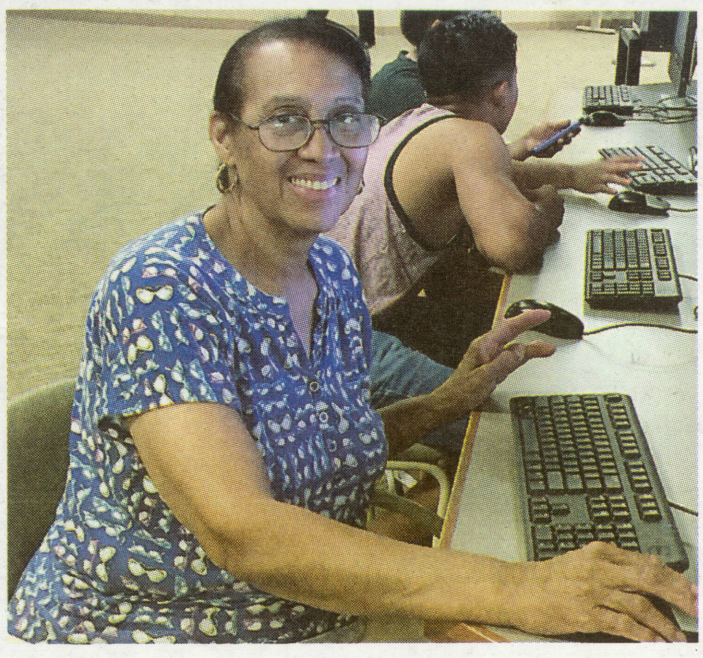
Mega Machines

Specialized equipment that will help WCC become a leader in skilled workforce training has been rolling in since the beginning of the year. Learn more on PAGE 5



Washtenaw Community College
ON THE RECORD
ontherecord.wccnet.edu / WashtenawCC @WashtenawCC SEPTEMBER 2016

Enrolled!



▲ New students (from left) Marques Maddox, Charlette Mason and Ian Timbs show off their WCC photo IDs.

PHOTO BY CJ SOUTH

▶ Part-time student Berether Hill gets ready for fall classes in business office administration.

PHOTO BY SUSAN FERRARO

After enjoying some well-deserved time off, thousands of students returned to Washtenaw Community College's campus, flooding the hallways and classrooms once again.

While most Michigan community colleges are down an average of three percent in credit hours and 2.3 percent in headcount, WCC continues to hold its own on enrollment.

Due to late enrollment, final figures are not yet available.

"We are very pleased to maintain our enrollment and position as a leader in the state," said Evan Montague, associate vice president for WCC's Recruitment & Student Enrollment. "This is based on the hard work of all faculty and staff across the college."

Classes got underway on August 29 and were held during part of the Labor Day weekend. No classes were held on the holiday.

Other flexible classes start in September and October. The most up-to-date options can be viewed at wccnet.edu.

A LETTER FROM WCC PRESIDENT DR. ROSE B. BELLANCA

Millage success: Thank you, voters

Dear Readers:

On Aug. 2, voters in Washtenaw County went to the polls and overwhelmingly approved Washtenaw Community College's 0.85 operating millage renewal and restoration ballot question.

The millage, which will raise about $12.5 million in financial support, was approved by 70.4 percent of voters - one of the highest approval percentages in our 50-year history.

On behalf of our Board of Trustees, our faculty and staff - I'd like to offer a sincere thank you to Washtenaw County taxpayers for this remarkable support.

The millage vote outcome re-enforces our determination to "Keep Up the Good Work," the theme of our millage campaign. The trust taxpayers have shown will be returned through our continuing efforts to serve the community with affordable, first-rate programs and services.

The dollars the millage will provide are crucial, but the

— continued on page 8

INSIDE

Keeping Up THE GOOD WORK

UA General President Bill Hite discusses his organization's long-standing partnership with WCC — and we cover the group's recent completion ceremony — on PAGE 6

Campus Calendar 2
Alumni Profile 3
Nursing Anniversary 4
Police Academy Director 6
WCC Foundation 7

Washtenaw Community College
Free College Day & OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, Sept. 25, 2016
EXPLORE. ENJOY. ENGAGE!

FREE FUN, LEARNING

Washtenaw Community College is combining several annual events into one grand finale for its year-long 50th anniversary celebration. And all Washtenaw County residents are invited!

See PAGE 8 for details about the college's Community Open House and Free College Day, scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 25.

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WTMC grad receives Air Force Academy appointment

By ANITA LeBLANC
Special Writer

Leadership, academic excellence, a team player, mature, articulate.

These are descriptions of Washtenaw Technical Middle College (WTMC) graduate David Mazza who is enrolled this fall at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Karl Covert, dean and superintendent of WTMC and Julie Catanzarite, manager of Washtenaw Community College's New Student Programming, fondly recall the attributes of the former student who also served as a WCC student ambassador.

Covert remembers him as an integral member of the school when a new ninth grade program was launched and his willingness to be of service to others.

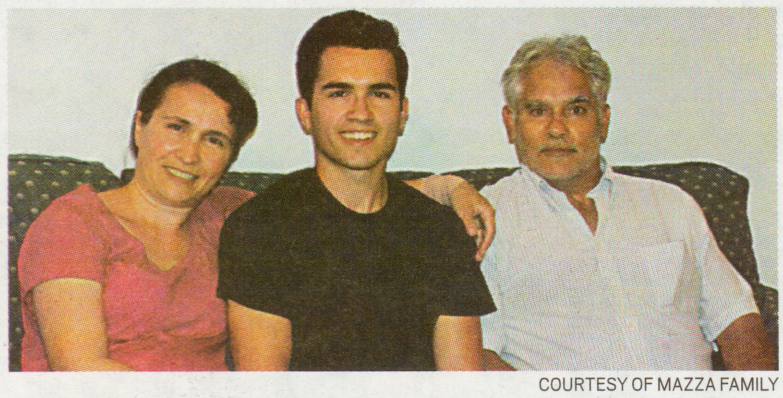
While a senior at WTMC, which is a highly-rated charter high school on WCC's campus, Mazza applied for admittance to the Air Force Academy, equipped with letters of recommendation from Covert and Catanzarite. But he was denied.

Mazza, according to his former school administrators, took the rejection as a challenge and worked to advance his leadership skills and physical fitness while at Oakland University this past school year.

He also attended the academy's summer program to improve his chances for candidacy.

It paid off. Mazza, along with 19 other Michigan students, received a nomination from U.S. Senator Gary Peters (D-MI).

Mazza is the first from WTMC to be admitted to the Academy. Applicants to the nation's service academies, must be between 17 and 23 years of age, go through a highly competitive and rigorous application process and be reviewed by a panel of community and military members to earn the congressional appointment that is usually required for those seeking admittance to a U.S. service academy.



COURTESY OF MAZZA FAMILY

WTMC graduate David Mazza with his parents, Theodora and Mark.

Covert said that one of the first things Mazza did after learning the news of his appointment was to contact Katie Glupker, his WTMC academic advisor.

"David worked really hard to become the kind of student that the Air Force Academy notices," Glupker said. "He will be an outstanding addition to the U.S. Air Force Academy. I'm so proud of his growth and well-deserved success."

Mazza began his studies at the academy in July. He will attend the academy for four years, and then commit to five years of military service after graduation.

"David was an advocate for the school, a positive role model, and really worked to promote WTMC," Covert said. "He was always one of the students that we could ask to help us when we did recruitment nights, or when we needed students to shadow new students learning about the school."

Catanzarite, who was Mazza's supervisor while he was employed as a student ambassador at the college, remembers his ability to consistently work with others.

"He was articulate and took the time to make sure every new student felt comfortable with the steps needed to successfully start and complete college," Catanzarite said. "David certainly led by example." ●

On the Record is published monthly by Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48105-4800

Comments and suggestions are welcomed. Email editor Susan Ferraro, APR, at snferraro@wccnet.edu.

For more information about WCC, call 734-973-3300 or visit wccnet.edu.

Washtenaw Community College is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission, 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, Illinois 60604-1411; 800-621-7440; ncahlc.org. Contact 734-973-3300 for information about Washtenaw Community College.

ADA/EEO/Title IX/Section 504 Compliance Statements

Washtenaw Community College does not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, marital status, disability, veteran status, or any other protected status as provided for and to the extent required by federal and state statutes, nor does the college discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. WCC is committed to compliance in all of its activities and services with the requirements of the Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Public Act 453, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, Public Act 220, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Employment compliance inquiries should be directed to the VP of Human Resources, Room 120 in the Business Education building, 734-973-3497. Facility access inquiries should be directed to the VP for Facilities, Grounds and Campus Safety, Room P0112, Plant Operations Building, 734-677-5322. Title IX or ADA/504 inquiries related to programs and services should be directed to the VP for Student and Academic Services, Room SC 247, Student Center Building, 734-973-3536.

Title II Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act Compliance Statement

The Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act of 1990 is a federal law that mandates the disclosure by all institutions of higher education of the rates of graduation, the number of incidents of certain criminal offenses, the type of security provided on campus, the pertinent policies regarding security on campus and policies that record and deal with alcohol and drug abuse. WCC is in full compliance and provides information annually through various means, including college publications, wccnet.edu or email. Inquiries concerning the Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act should be directed to Washtenaw Community College, Office of the Vice President for Student and Academic Services, Room SC 247, Student Center Building, Ann Arbor, MI 48105-4800; 734-973-3536.

WCC Board of Trustees

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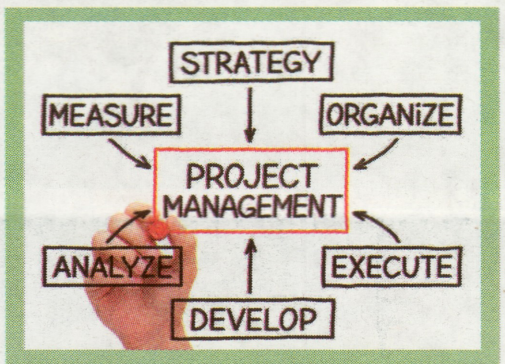
Washtenaw Community College

Campus Calendar

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CLASSES

Check out these and other noncredit classes at *wccnet.edu/economic-development*



CAREER DEVELOPMENT
Strategic Prep for PMP Certification

9/10 Prepare for the Project Management Professional (PMP®) certification exam, the most important industry-recognized certification for project managers. Globally recognized and demanded, the PMP demonstrates that you have the experience, education and competency to lead and direct projects.

Saturdays, Sept. 10-Oct. 8
9 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Main Campus
Cost: $850 plus $100 mandatory fee

LANGUAGES
French: Level 1

9/10 Learn common French greetings, expressions and how to identify people and things. Become familiar with the French culture and country, history, beliefs, customs and foods.

Saturdays, Sept. 10-Nov. 19
Noon-2 p.m.
Main Campus Cost: $189

HISTORY AND CULTURE
Coastal Great Lakes

9/10 Explore the iconic Great Lakes coastal resources including lighthouses, shipwrecks, maritime museums, key migratory birds areas, research laboratories and research vessels. Take a field trip to the Michigan Maritime Museum in South Haven.

NEW

Saturdays, Sept. 10-Oct. 1
10 a.m.-Noon
Main Campus
Cost: $150 plus $25 mandatory fee

BUSINESS SOFTWARE:
Excel 2013: Level 1

9/13 Get to know Excel and the ways you can use its many features for everyday accounting tasks.

Tu/Th, Sept. 13-22 6-8 p.m.
Main Campus Cost: $129

FITNESS
Tai Chi Chuan for Beginners

9/14 Discover ways to strengthen your mind, body and spirit through meditation and martial arts.

Wednesdays, Sept. 14-Dec. 7
6-7:15 p.m.
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Cost: $149 plus $5 mandatory fee

GARDENING
Fall Gardening tips

9/14 Find out how to grow and harvest cold-weather vegetables and plant bulbs, perennials, shrubs and trees for bloom next year. Learn how to prepare your garden beds for a long winter's nap and protect tender and potted plants.

Wednesday, Sept. 14 6-8 p.m.
Main Campus Cost: $29

DIGITAL MARKETING
Effective Email Marketing

9/14 Gain understanding of the key elements of email marketing from building and maintaining contact lists to analyzing the results of a campaign.

Wednesday, Sept. 14 6-9 p.m.
Main Campus Cost: $45

FOOD AND DRINK
Heart-Healthy Vegan Cooking: An Introduction

9/15 Create delicious meals designed to make you feel your best and make your heart happy.

Thursday, Sept. 15 6-9 p.m.
Dixboro United Methodist Church
Cost: $39 plus $30 mandatory fee

DIGITAL MARKETING
Social Media Best Practices 101

9/19 Explore proven principles of marketing, public relations and customer service that can be applied to the social media landscape. Learn some of the best practices to ensure your e-marketing efforts are effective.

Monday, Sept. 19 6-9 p.m.
Main Campus Cost: $45

DIGITAL MARKETING
Effective Video Marketing

9/20 Learn how to tell your story, provide useful information and engage your audience with videos that create value for your viewers

Tuesday, Sept. 20 6-9 p.m.
Main Campus Cost: $45

HOBBIES AND EXPLORATION
Invent Together! Workshop for the Family

9/24 Your family will use everyday objects to explore science and computers and to work together as a team to think critically and create an invention.

NEW

Saturday, Sept. 24 10 a.m.-Noon
Main Campus
Cost: $35 plus $50 mandatory fee

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
9/26 Bookkeeping: Practical Skills for Business

Learn the basics of general bookkeeping tasks including payroll, inventory, sales, vendor payment, financial statement preparation and more.

M/W, Sept. 26-28 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Main Campus Cost: $99

CAMPUS EVENTS

WASHTENAW ECONOMIC CLUB LUNCHEON

The topic of the Washtenaw Economic Club's latest luncheon, which runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 15, will be "Advanced Manufacturing – Key to our National and Economic Security." It features Emily DeRocco, Education and Workforce Director for Lightweight Innovations for Tomorrow (LIFT) and the Founder and CEO of E3, a Washington, D.C.-based consulting practice focused on linking education, workforce and economic development assets for competitive advantage. For more information or to purchase tickets visit wec.wccnet.edu or call 734-677-5060.

9/15

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE & FREE COLLEGE DAY

You're invited to Washtenaw Community College from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 25, for a day filled with exciting programs and activities, including Free College Day and Cars & Bikes on Campus. For more details or to register, check wccnet.edu/openhouse. ***See related story, page 8.***

9/25

ALUMNI PROFILE: Marcel Henderson

'Everything gets easier after the first class'

Henderson goes from dropout to graduate to small business owner

By PRINCESS GABBARA
Writer, Public Relations

Washtenaw Community College alumnus and soon-to-be Eastern Michigan University graduate Marcel Henderson has come a long way.

In between completing his final semester at EMU and developing web applications and running a group study session at WCC for new computer programming students, it's hard to imagine how Henderson finds the time to operate his new business, Go Time! Technologies.

Even harder to imagine is a time when Henderson didn't take his studies or future seriously.

Henderson first enrolled at WCC eight years ago but soon dropped out. He tried his hand at nursing and plumbing careers but quickly found that neither field suited him.

"I didn't do well my first semester," he said. "Right after I graduated from high school, my father died and I think that was a big part of why I wasn't focused. I just wasn't ready. I always liked computers, but I still didn't know what I wanted to do."

After taking a few years off, his 4-year-old daughter, Natalie, inspired him to give school another chance in 2012.

PHOTO BY CJ SOUTH

WCC graduate Marcel Henderson (left) works with Chris Young, a member of the group study session Henderson runs for new computer programming students.

"My family grew up without a lot of money, and I didn't want my daughter going through that," Henderson said. "I knew the only way to do that was to go back to school and find a career I was passionate about."

At 26, Henderson came back more determined than before. The first thing he did upon returning? Sign up for the same computer science course he failed the first time around.

"I didn't have any problems the second time I took the class," he said with a smile.

Seeing how passionate his instructors were about computer science was all Henderson needed to know he was heading in the right direction.

"The professors at WCC are unmatched. They over-prepared me in many ways," Henderson said. "The smaller classes and hands-on learning gave me a jumpstart that other students didn't have."

Henderson earned an associate degree in computer science with a concentration in Java programming and graduated from WCC with an impressive 3.9 GPA. Now he's on track to graduate from EMU this year with a bachelor's degree in computer science.

He looks forward to growing his business, Go Time! Technologies, with his business partner Matt Bolin and building a solid clientele that will eventually allow him to work from anywhere, including the beach.

Go Time! Technologies has a device that uses a thermometer that's able to send data readings on medical tissue samples from the thermometer through the internet to the website they're designing.

Many departments around campus played an integral role in Henderson's success, including the Entrepreneurship Center.

Like many new business owners, Henderson had no idea where to begin, but through one of the Center's free workshops, he was able to establish a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC).

"I know a lot about computer science; I know nothing about business," he added with a laugh. "It's great to have people who are willing to help you."

Henderson's story is a classic example of "it's how you finish that counts." Nevertheless, he's grateful to have started his educational journey at WCC and wishes more students understood the value of a community college education.

He also had some encouraging words for other non-traditional students: "It's never too late to follow your passion. Everything gets easier after the first class. Don't give up." ●

PHOTO BY JESSICA BIBBEE

WCC Student Development and Activities Director Pete Leshkevich displays his pin of appreciation alongside WCC Board of Trustees (top left) Secretary Christina Fleming, Ruth A. Hatcher, Chair Richard J. Landau, J.D., Ph.D., Vice Chair Diana McKnight-Morton, Treasurer Stephen J. Gill, Ph.D., David DeVarti, and WCC President Dr. Rose B. Bellanca.

Society honors WCC advisor

By JESSICA BIBBEE
Staff, Public Relations

For five years, Washtenaw Community College's Peter Leshkevich has served as chapter adviser for the college's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year college students.

Leshkevich is the first to acknowledge it's been a labor of love.

That "labor" was recognized by Phi Theta Kappa with a pin of appreciation, which President Dr. Rose B. Bellanca presented to Leshkevich at the monthly Board of Trustees meeting.

"Leshkevich's ceaseless dedication to the chapter is reflected not just in the success of the chapter – but in the success of the students he has advised over the past five years," said Bellanca.

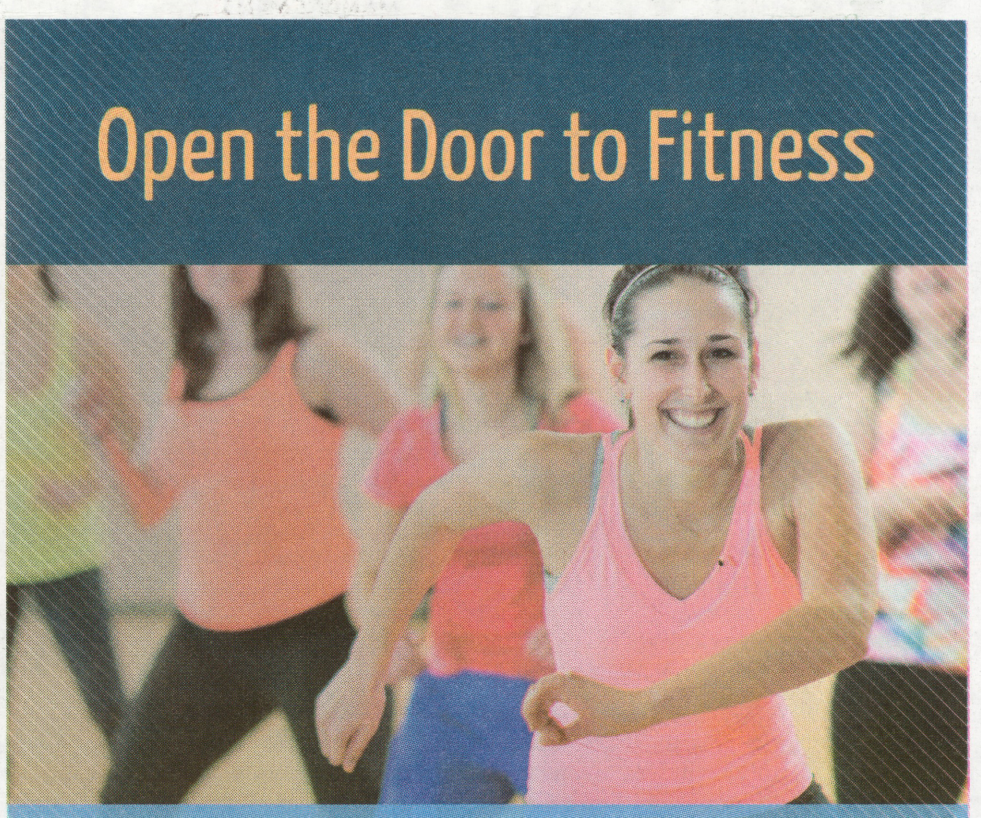
While this award recognizes Leshkevich's five years as the chapter advisor, his story with Phi Theta Kappa began more than 10 years ago.

As a student worker, he organized chapter events and helped students navigate scholarship opportunities. For his continued involvement as Technical Assistant, he was awarded honorary membership.

When Leshkevich became director of Student Development and Activities, he also assumed the role of chapter advisor, bringing with him those five years of experience.

"It feels great to be rewarded for five years of advising," said Leshkevich, "but the five years of advising students was the real reward."

The Beta Gamma Alpha chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at WCC currently has more than 1,200 students and alumni members. ●



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Sky's the limit for student, son

A pilot's journey includes an important layover at the WCC Children's Center

By JESSICA BIBBEE
Staff, Public Relations

After a career as an airline pilot, Chris Kikkert, 45, redefines the meaning of "non-traditional student" at Washtenaw Community College.

But she doesn't come to campus alone. Her 4-year-old son, Connor, also spends his days on campus at the WCC Children's Center. And as with most everyone who begins a second career at mid-life, Kikkert's story is one of discovery – a journey that began with Connor's birth in 2012. When he was born, Kikkert knew that her life as a pilot was about to alter course.

As a professional pilot for Northwest Airlines and later as a corporate pilot, 19-day rotations were common – a lifestyle that didn't align with raising her newborn son. Connor was born with a congenital heart condition that would require three heart surgeries by the age of three. The airline schedule just didn't work with the need to be with her son.

Given a chance to pursue a second career, Kikkert tapped into her gift for navigating spaces and decided on Interior Design. With a scholarship to the Kendall College of Art and Design (KCAD) in Grand Rapids, Kikkert also needed to navigate the challenge of staying near the hospital in Ann Arbor, where her son was still receiving care at the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital.

Learning of her son's need for medical care and rehab for the next year, KCAD extended her scholarship to the fall semester of 2017 and encouraged her to attend WCC during her son's rehab in Ann Arbor.

"Money couldn't buy a better education and better day care. We're in good hands and we're so blessed that we can be a part of this."
– Chris Kikkert

PHOTO BY JESSICA BIBBEE
Chris Kikkert and her son, Connor, spend their days on the Washtenaw Community College campus.

Of the 20 merit-based scholarships awarded by KCAD, three recipients came from WCC, including Kikkert.

"The reason Kendall (administrators) speak so highly of WCC is because they've seen the work that comes out of the art department at WCC." said Kikkert.

"Money couldn't buy a better education and better day care. We're in good hands and we're so blessed that we can be a part of this."

Kikkert once flew for Herman Miller, a major manufacture of office furniture and home furnishings based in Zeeland. When she completes her bachelor degree in Interior Design, she sees her journey coming full circle. From flying for a furniture design company to designing space for furniture. For now, knowing that Connor is both safe and engaged allows Kikkert to focus on her studies.

They say it takes a village to raise a child, and Kikkert credits WCC's Children's Center for being "the village."

"I wouldn't be able to go back to school," says Kikkert, "if it wasn't for the Children's Center at WCC."

Like a true pilot, she has her sights set high – for her next career and her son Connor's future. ●

Children's Center: Not just a day care

The WCC Children's Center aims to provide affordable day care so that students with children can focus on their own education. On a typical school day, nearly 80 children are at the center, with more than 100 families enrolled.

The highly qualified teachers and paraprofessionals provide well-rounded child-focused programs and boasts of well-equipped facilities, both indoors and outdoors.

At $3 per hour, the center offers one of the most affordable child care options in Washtenaw County. With scholarships through the Student Resource Center, students can receive funding for up to 70 percent of the child care.

The Children's Center is not in competition with other day care or pre-school options in Washtenaw County, as it's services are only available to students and staff.

"WCC is really committed to their student services, and one of those services is the Children's Center," said Trudi Hagen, Director of the WCC Children's Center. "This really is a pre-school, it's not just day care or babysitting. We have a specific curriculum with plans and goals. We're offering pre-reading and pre-numeracy skills to the children that come through these doors."

The WCC Children's Center is accredited by the NAEYC (National Association for the Education of the Young).

For information, contact Hagen at 734-973-3539 or visit wccnet.edu/resources/otherresources/childrenscenter. ●

REUNION TIME

Nursing Alumni Homecoming event celebrates program's 40-year anniversary

By ANITA LeBLANC
Special Writer

The 40th anniversary of Washtenaw Community College's Nursing Program will be the centerpiece of the inaugural WCC Nursing Alumni Homecoming Celebration Thursday, Oct. 27. The WCC Alumni Association and the newly formed WCC Student Nurses' Association (WCCSNA) will co-sponsor the event. Student nurses and WCC nursing alumni, as well as the public, are encouraged to attend.

Sister Judith VanderVeen, who recently retired after 35 years as a WCC nursing faculty member, will give the keynote speech titled, "Across Generations... Working Together for Better Health Care."

"It has been a blessing for me to be associated with nursing at WCC since its inception in 1975," Sister Vanderveen said. "I am grateful for the students and the faculty, some of whom are lifelong friends."

Jim Abraham, president of WCCSNA chapter, said the homecoming celebration will include a dinner, 50/50 drawing and giveaway for a brand-new MDF stethoscope. Proceeds from the homecoming will support the WCCSNA chapter - which is a member of the National Student Nurses' Association, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster the professional development of undergraduate nursing students.

"We are all looking forward to this homecoming," said Abraham. "Sister VanderVeen's remarks will focus on her insights and vision for improving healthcare around the world - a topic on the minds of so many people these days. The evening will also provide attendees with valuable networking opportunities and a chance to reconnect with their classmates."

Abraham returned to college after spending many years in retail managerial positions.

"It was time for me to follow my passion - and that was to become a nurse," he said. "In order to be a good nurse, you must remember the value and unique nature of each patient's life - and not just focus on treating symptoms."

Abraham will graduate in May and plans to transfer to Eastern Michigan University to get a bachelor's degree in nursing – with a specialization in geriatrics.

The WCCSNA teaches students communication skills and provides valuable networking opportunities that are designed to help them find jobs. The WCCSNA also teaches students about the importance of community service – with students volunteering their time to staff blood pressure clinics at senior centers or becoming involved in the Go Red For Women events – which focus on heart health.

Gloria Velarde has taught nursing at WCC for more than 25 years and serves as the faculty advisor to the WCCSNA. At the homecoming, she looks forward to seeing some of her former students and catching up on their personal and professional lives.

"I'm very excited about this inaugural nursing alumni event," said Velarde. "When you think about WCC graduating approximately 80 nurses each year, that's over 3,000 nurses we've produced in our 40 years of existence," Velarde notes. "That's a very impressive number and speaks to the integrity and caliber of our program."

The homecoming will be held in the Morris Lawrence Building on the WCC campus. Doors will open at 5:30 with dinner starting at 6 p.m. Tickets are $30 each or two for $50.

Saint Joseph Mercy Health System is an approved provider of continuing education by the Wisconsin Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. A 1.0 nursing contact hour will be provided.

To register and purchase tickets, call the WCC Alumni Association at 734-973-3665 or visit wccnet.edu/nursealumni.

PHOTO BY JESSICA BIBBEE
Longtime nursing faculty instructor Gloria Velarde supervises WCC nursing student Jim Abraham as he diagnoses a "patient dummy."

For information about the Washtenaw Community College Student Nurses' Association, contact Jim Abraham at 734-845-6365 or visit its Facebook page at facebook.com/groups/wccsna/.

For information about the WCC Alumni Association, contact Shana Barker, Alumni Coordinator, at 734-973-3705 or visit wccnet.edu/alumni/. ●

Non-credit courses recognized for high quality

By PRINCESS GABBARA
Writer, Public Relations

Washtenaw Community College has been approved by the International Association of Continuing Education and Training (IACET) for its non-credit area of training.

The IACET represents the highest level of quality for instructional design, delivery and evaluation that sets provider colleges and institutions, including WCC, apart from others.

The accreditation allows the college to provide stronger programming that meets the needs of its students and community members.

"Accreditation is equivalent to the Good Housekeeping seal of approval for education," said Dr. Michelle K. Mueller, WCC's vice president of Economic, Community and College Development. "It provides the public and employers with the assurance that the classes they enroll in and complete for training, through WCC's Division of Economic & Community Development, have met the highest standard of quality available."

Total noncredit headcount for the 2015-16 academic year was 6,959.

Community Enrichment classes include "Build a Business Facebook Page," "Basic Video Production" and "Bookkeeping: Practical Skills for Business."

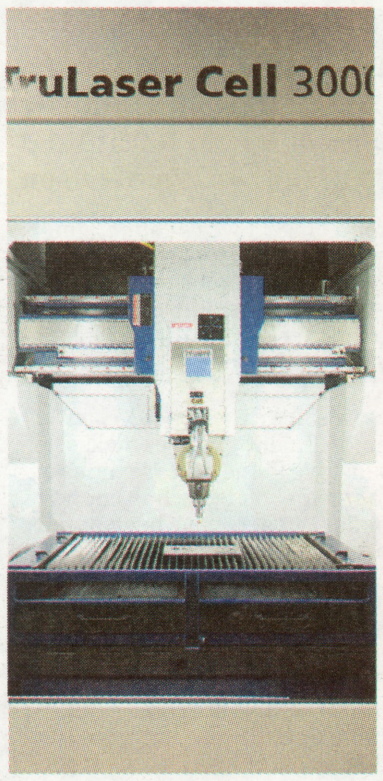
Topic areas for Workforce Development classes range from accounting and finance to business writing to stress management. ●

To view more classes, visit wccnet.edu/economic-development.

Stepping up for a skilled workforce

New Advanced Transportation Center equipment to be unveiled at Sept. 15 event

By SUSAN FERRARO, APR
Director of Media Relations



PHOTOS BY CJ SOUTH

A grant from the Michigan Community College Skilled Trades Equipment Program helped purchase equipment that will make Washtenaw Community College a leader in skilled workforce training.

Since the beginning of the year, new equipment has been rolling in to Washtenaw Community College that will position the college among the leaders in providing highly-valued skilled trades training for its students.

On Thursday, Sept. 15, WCC will officially unveil the state-of-the-art equipment in a special ceremony at its Occupational Education Building.

Classes already are underway for students using new Stratasys Dimension and LulzBot TAZ 3D printers; Lincoln Electric robotic welding cells; FANUC and ABB Industrial Programmable robots and work cells; Lincoln Electric and Miller single process and all-process welding units; HAAS High-Speed CNC Vertical and Gantry Router milling machines; Laser and Plasma cutting machines and non-destructive testing machines, and chassis and engine dynamometers, among many other new pieces of equipment.

Last year, WCC was awarded a $4.4 million grant from the Michigan Community College Skilled Trades Equipment Program (CCSTEP). The state's strategy is to fund equipment purchases that will position Michigan as the leader in training the skilled workforce of the future.

At WCC, the new equipment ties training in machine tool technology and advanced manufacturing to programs related to the college's Advanced Transportation Center, specifically intelligent transportation systems.

"This new equipment coupled with training that our faculty have received further cements our position of being a leader in educating the workforce," said Brandon Tucker, WCC's Dean of Technology & Public Service Careers. "Our students will walk away with not just training but exposure to the most advanced equipment that is used by business and industry.

"Employers in the region have the potential to gain a well-rounded employee. It's a win-win situation for all."

Al Lecz, WCC's Advanced Transportation Director, sees the new equipment providing a strong tie to the automotive industry.

"This CCSTEP equipment enables WCC to meet Advanced Transportation business and industry demand for technicians trained in state-of-the-art manufacturing process skills and competencies required to meet future product and process innovations," Lecz said.

"WCC-trained technicians will be able to work with a variety of light-weighting materials in several manufacturing processes aimed at the industry challenge of producing vehicles meeting continuously more stringent fuel economy and exhaust emission standards."

WCC President Dr. Rose B. Bellanca, who will greet guests at the unveiling, added: "A skilled workforce is the key to long-term economic prosperity not just for Washtenaw County, but for the state, the country and the world.

Among the speakers at the unveiling will be Emily DeRocco, former Assistant Secretary of Labor in the George W. Bush administration and current Education and Workforce Director for Lightweight Innovations for Tomorrow (LIFT).

DeRocco also will be the keynote speaker at the Washtenaw Economic Club luncheon that same day.

ALL THAT JAZZ

PHOTO BY STEVE KUZMA

By PRINCESS GABBARA
Writer, Public Relations

Word of mouth travels fast. That's how Washtenaw Community College's Jazz Combo established itself as a staple at nearly every event and celebration around campus.

The college has John E. Lawrence, former director of WCC's Music Performance program, to thank for that. But, interestingly enough, the band sort of came together by accident.

The year was 2013 when Lawrence's jazz combo class was scheduled to perform at the Honors Convocation – an event that recognizes WCC students who achieve a GPA of 3.5 or higher. But when the drummer didn't show, Lawrence rolled out plan B.

"Johnny called to see if I could sit in for his drummer," explained Arnett Chisholm, Dean of Student Diversity and Inclusion at WCC. "He later discovered that (history instructor) Thornton Perkins played the bass guitar, so he also drafted him to come and play.

"Then, communications instructor Jennifer Jackson informed Johnny that she would be interested in singing from time to time," Chisholm continued. "Shortly after that, (business instructor) Maurice Stovall joined on the rhythm guitar and (pharmacy technology director) Kiela Samuels joined as lead singer."

Pretty soon, there were enough people to form a real band. But when Lawrence retired last year, the remaining band members didn't know if they'd continue without him.

After consulting with Lawrence's replacement, Steve Somers, who currently serves as the band's leader, they decided to keep going–and now they're stronger than ever.

"Our passion for music and learning has brought and kept us together," Somers said.

The band performs at annual events throughout the year, including WCC's Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration, the WCC Foundation Mardi Gras fundraiser, and Free College Day. If there's an event on campus, they are almost always there.

"I love performing and seeing the smiles on people's faces and connecting with the audience," Samuels said.

Band members come together at least once a week to practice and rehearse the music. The genre performed depends on the venue, but they specialize in jazz-style music due to Morris Lawrence's musical legacy at the college.

> "Our passion for music and learning has brought and kept us together."
>
> **– Steve Somers**

For those who don't know, Lawrence (no relation to John E. Lawrence) was a renowned jazz musician who helped propel WCC's jazz orchestra to national and international acclaim.

Under his direction, the band performed at the White House, Carnegie Hall, and the Montreux/Detroit Jazz Festival, among many others. He died in 1994, but continues to inspire others through his music, which resulted in his name on a campus building.

Samuels says the growing demand for the band to perform at upcoming events is more proof that music brings people together in ways that only music can.

"We just have a good time when we're up there," she said.

Although the WCC Jazz Combo consists of WCC faculty and staff from various departments, current music students and alumni are encouraged to show off their musical talents as well due to its open-door policy.

"Performing with the band allowed me to get to know my professor on a more personal note," said community member Claudia Young, who completed two Jazz Combo and Improvisation courses. "Sharing the common ground of jazz definitely builds bridges between students and their professors."

Spoken like a true musician.

Whether it's brushing up on old skills or playing for the pure enjoyment, every member of the band seems to have their own unique reason why they perform.

"Playing with the WCC Jazz Combo, I get an opportunity to work with some great individuals, and I feel like it's a form of giving back to the college–being able to do something fun and upbeat that's outside of my job duties," Chisholm said. "Playing the drums relaxes me and it's a form of self-expression. When I'm playing, I don't have a care in the world; it's all about the beat."

New Police Academy director passionate about law enforcement and education

By SUSAN FERRARO, APR
Director of Media Relations

Few in today's world would dispute that police officers have a tough and dangerous job.

At Washtenaw Community College, Joyce Nelson, the new director of the college's Police Academy and Public Service Training, makes sure recruits understand that reality ... not to discourage them from police work but to prepare them to be successful in their law enforcement careers.

Nelson

That's why "GoPro" cameras are on order so that recruits can begin to get used to walking around wearing video recording devices attached to their uniforms. That's why, as uncomfortable as they may seem at first, recruits are provided bullet-proof vests to wear during training.

"They need to be ready for the job," Nelson said. "The first few days of employment with a law enforcement agency should not be full of distractions such as getting used to the feeling of police equipment."

Nelson goes on to note there are many different types of skills police recruits need to hold to become a successful police officer – such as proficiency with firearms, and an understanding of first aid, cell phone technology, and life-saving equipment, among others. Additionally, recruits are taught about the importance of strong writing – which will allow them to accurately draft accident and incident reports - an often overlooked element of a police officer's job.

It doesn't take long in conversation with her to pick up the fact that Joyce Nelson is passionate about both law enforcement and education. And she looks for the same type of passion in her student recruits.

"I got into police work because I wanted to help people," she said. "As an officer, my passion for the profession came from my ability to contribute to the safety and well-being of the people in the cities where I worked. I want people to understand that police officers are trying to help their communities, agencies and people in general."

> "It's important that our recruits understand the cultural nuances of the communities they serve. By understanding the culture they can properly manage difficult incidents and help facilitate a successful resolution." — **Joyce Nelson**

Starting out as a patrol officer, Nelson worked her way up to sergeant with the Novi Police department; a lieutenant with the Lake Angelus P.D. and then on to the Oakland Police Academy in Auburn Hills, Mich. where she was assistant director. Before coming to WCC, she was chief investigator in the Standards Compliance Section of the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES). She earned a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Madonna University and an MBA with a criminal justice concentration from Northcentral University in Prescott Valley, Arizona. She also completed the Police Staff and Command School at Michigan State University.

"We are so fortunate to have someone of Joyce's caliber, intellect and passion join our team," said Brandon Tucker, WCC dean of advanced technologies and public service. "I am excited for what the future holds under her leadership."

Nelson's experience in law enforcement agencies makes her sensitive to the fiscal realities of municipal budgets. She knows police budgets have been pared back, especially in the smaller communities. And she knows that beginning officers who need additional training will place even more of a drain on the budget. So, she hopes to take the "show on the road," bringing training to the outlying towns so that lost time away from the job and travel to and from WCC or other community colleges that offer training are reduced.

"We want WCC to become a central hub for law enforcement training- not just for Washtenaw County, but for the surrounding counties as well," said Nelson.

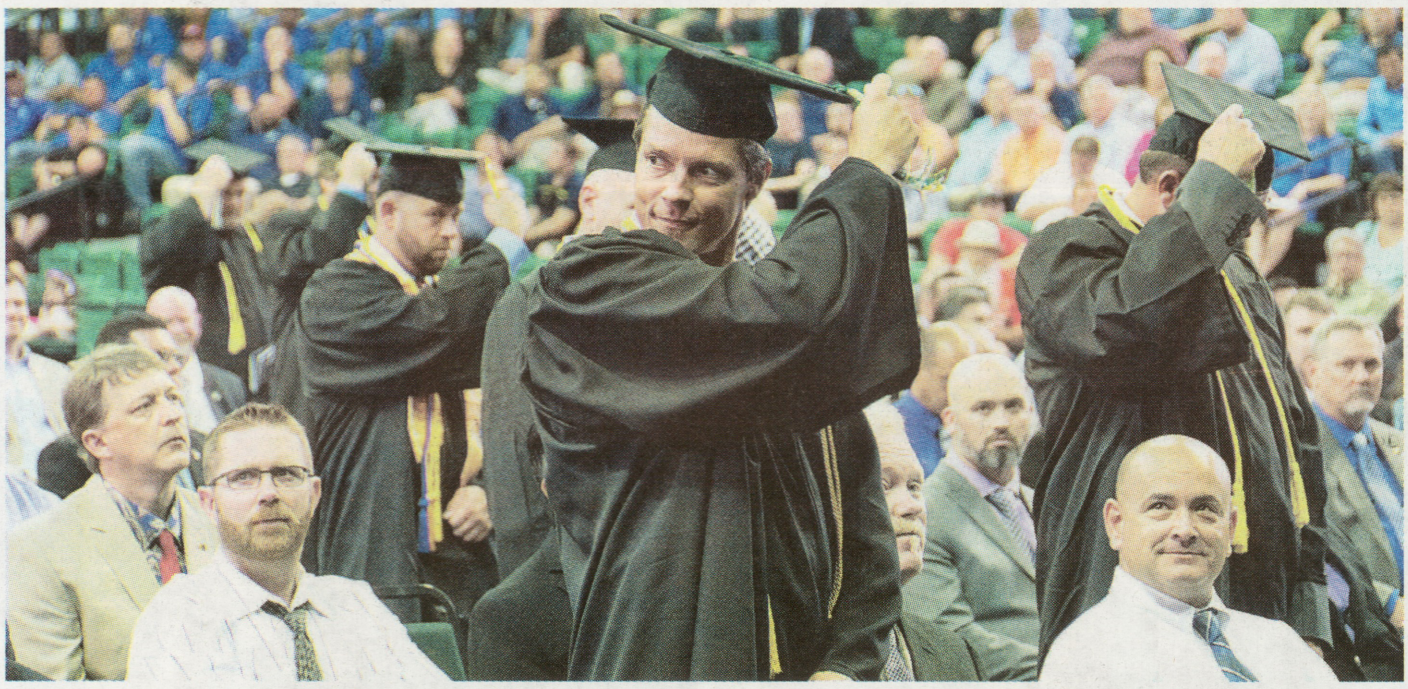
Addressing current tensions between police officers and the communities they serve is a high priority for Nelson. She notes that recruits are vetted before being accepted into the training program. And she adds student recruits at WCC receive over double the cultural awareness training required by MCOLES. WCC recruits also receive implicit bias awareness training and unbiased police training.

"It's important that our recruits understand the cultural nuances of the communities they serve," said Nelson. "By understanding the culture they can properly manage difficult incidents and help facilitate a successful resolution."

Currently there are 21 recruits in WCC's program. Among them are three women and two minorities. Upon successful completion of the program, the recruits will have earned 16 credit hours toward a degree and will be eligible to take the state licensing examination.

Then, for Nelson, it will be on to the next class of student recruits and the job she loves. ●

UA COMPLETION CEREMONY



Training: 'The life blood of our industry'

By SUSAN FERRARO, APR
Director of Media Relations

For the nearly 2,000 members of the United Association of Union Plumbers, Pipefitters, Sprinkler Fitters, Welders and HVACR Technicians, better known as the UA, Washtenaw Community College must feel like a summer home.

This August marked the 27th year the UA returned to WCC's campus for its annual training event. But the UA members are here to work and learn; this is not a vacation, but a commitment to becoming the best in the business.

"It's the trainers training the trainers," said UA General President William Hite. "Training is the life blood of our industry and we spend $270 million a year - no other organization can make that claim."

Hite noted that the knowledge and skills that are acquired here by these UA instructors will be taken back to local unions across the United States and Canada, ensuring that apprentices in every corner of North America have access to the latest skilled trade techniques. New courses this year included: Methods In Teaching Drainage Systems; Reliable Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems; Infectious Control Risk Assessment, and Laser Scanning and Management of New Refrigerants/EPA Regulations, among many others.

▲ UA graduates move the tassels on their caps at the Aug. 18 completion ceremony.

◀ UA Director of Training Chris Haslinger and WCC President Dr. Rose B. Bellanca present diplomas to UA Instructor Trainers at the ceremony.

PHOTOS BY CJ SOUTH

An emerging global economy, Hite said, is having an impact on the skilled trades. "The industry is changing," he said. "If we don't stay on top of things, we'll be pushed aside."

WCC President Dr. Rose B. Bellanca noted that the UA's Instructor Training program is renowned because "the UA has made a commitment to a lifetime of learning, high standards and an expectation of excellence."

A completion ceremony for newly certified instructors was held on Aug. 18 at the Eastern Michigan University Convocation Center and was emceed by UA Director of Training Chris Haslinger.

Haslinger gave a rundown of the week's activities and said the 2016 Instructor Training class was the second largest class ever with 1,765 instructors taking classes, 367 for the first time. Out of the 113 courses, 20 were brand new.

During the ceremony, Dr. Bellanca spoke about invaluable connection between training and meeting the workforce demands of business and industry. She also conferred 14 associate degrees in Applied Science.

WCC's relationship with the UA will go on well into the future. In 2014, the college and the UA signed a 15-year contract to continue the partnership.

The UA's presence here has a significant economic impact on area businesses including restaurants and retail outlets. According to Mary A. Kerr, President and CEO of the Washtenaw County Convention and Visitors Bureau, the estimated economic impact is roughly $6 million. ●

Keeping Up THE GOOD WORK

A message from ...

BILL HITE
UA General President

For the past 27 years, the United Association of Union Plumbers, Pipefitters, Sprinkler Fitters, Welders and HVACR Technicians — better known as the UA — has called Washtenaw Community College home during one week in August. The UA holds our Instructor Training Program here, where we train the trainers. These individuals then return to local unions in the U.S. and Canada to train the 42,000 apprentices, as well as the 340,000 journeymen of the UA who are continuously upgrading their skills. We love coming to WCC and to Ann Arbor, where we always receive a great welcome.

Our training programs have grown and evolved over the years, and now we have a presence year round at WCC. We have a true partnership that has served us well and that we believe has been beneficial to WCC and the surrounding community. The past few years, representatives from our affiliated organizations in Australia and Ireland have also been on campus.

As WCC begins its new school year, so too will the UA's local unions across North America begin classes for the thousands of apprentices in training in our organization. The instructors who were on campus in August will now be home in their local unions, preparing lesson plans and exercises and all the other parts of preparing young people for lucrative careers.

We wish WCC the best in the coming year, and look forward to 27 more years of partnership with the college, as we pursue our common goal of preparing future generations to build the cities, communities and towns of North America. Keep up the good work, WCC!

Washtenaw Community College 50 OPENING DOORS

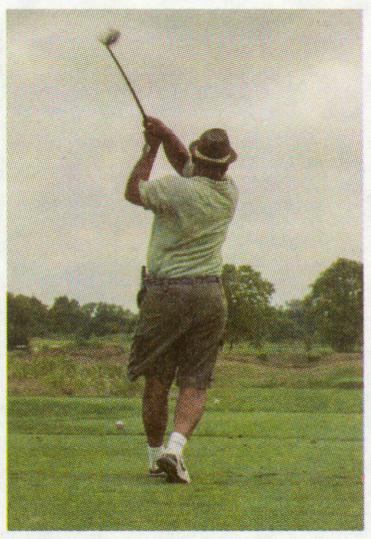
ACCESS SUCCESS INNOVATION

The WCC Foundation

Scholarship recipient expresses gratitude at annual golf outing fundraiser

Event raises $90,000 for students this year

The WCC Foundation's 23rd Annual Jerry Jernigan Memorial "Drive for Education" Golf Outing event was a great success. Raising more than $90,000, the event ranks in the top five percent of golf outings throughout the country.



Close to 160 players, individuals and volunteers gathered at the Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center on August 15 to support WCC students.

The winning teams this year were DTE Energy on the Golden Fox course and Friends of Jerry on the Classic Fox course.

Nina Pu, a WCC Foundation scholarship recipient, shared her journey from Shanghai, China to WCC, where she's taking classes and serving as president of the ESL (English as a Second Langauge) club. In the winter semester, Nina will transfer to the University of Michigan, where she will complete her bachelor's degree in economics with a minor in business.

"It was such an honor to speak at the golf outing event," Nina said. "Having received a scholarship from the WCC Foundation twice, I always wanted to thank the donors in person."

There to capture the day's events was WCC alumnus Tafari Stevenson-Howard. He is a University of Michigan employee and freelance photographer, whose work has appeared in *Reader's Digest* and *The New York Times*. Tafari has also done photography work for Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week, Pepsi, and President Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign.

"I was busy working fulltime and raising a family, but WCC made it easy for me to transition back into pursuing my education," Tafari said. "When I was asked to be the photographer at this year's golf outing event, I was thrilled. It's all about raising money for student scholarships and I was happy to be a part of that."

Princess Gabbara

Tafari Stevenson-Howard, WCC Alumnus

Join the Alumni Association today: *wccnet.edu/alumni*

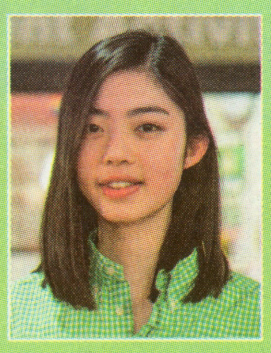
Support a student's journey to success

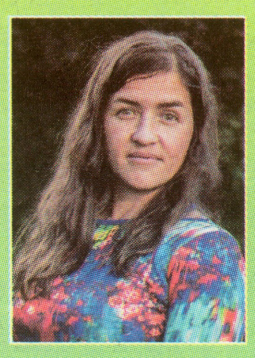
Generous donors to the WCC Foundation know they're doing more than helping students afford books and tuition–they're also helping them on their journey to success. Their support has an enormous positive impact on students' lives, which in turn has a positive impact on their families and communities.

Every year, the WCC Foundation removes financial barriers to an education through awarding hundreds of thousands of dollars to countless students.

"With the donors' financial generosity, I was able to focus more on my classes, extracurricular activities and volunteer work rather than the financial burden. I'm grateful to the WCC Foundation for all they've done for me and many other students."

Nina Pu





"Your donation might seem like a small thing, but the WCC Foundation scholarship means the world to me. As a photographer and graphic designer, I'm able to immediately apply what I'm learning, and that means I can start giving back to my clients in the community today. It really is a gift that keeps giving, and I'm so grateful for the generosity of everyone who supports the WCC Foundation."

Jessica Bibbee

Please consider helping a student today by making a gift to the WCC Foundation *wccnet.edu/foundation/give*

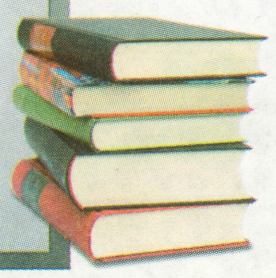
Back to School

Please help us help our students with back to school expenses. Your gift can change their life!

- $50 can help where the need is greatest
- $100 can help purchase a book
- $1,000 can help with tuition

Make back-to-school less worrisome by giving online at *wccnet.edu/foundation/give/*

Or send your life-changing, tax-deductible gift to:
WCC Foundation, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. SC 306, Ann Arbor, MI 48105-4800



WCC Foundation

Student Center Building, Suite 306
4800 East Huron River Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48105-4800
734-973-3665 phone
734-677-5406 fax
wccnet.edu/foundation

Learning + Fun = WCC open house

Free College Day part of event

If you like cars and bikes, if you like the opportunity to take free classes, if you like a campus-wide day of fun and exploration, come to Washtenaw Community College Sunday, Sept. 25.

The college is combining events this fall to officially close out its year-long 50th anniversary celebration.

For the 13th year in a row, the popular Cars & Bikes on Campus event will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Parking Lots 2 and 3 near the Occupational Education Building.

For the third year, WCC will open its classroom doors for another "Free College Day," featuring college instructors holding classes in a variety of disciplines. Visit wccnet.edu/openhouse for a list of available classes.

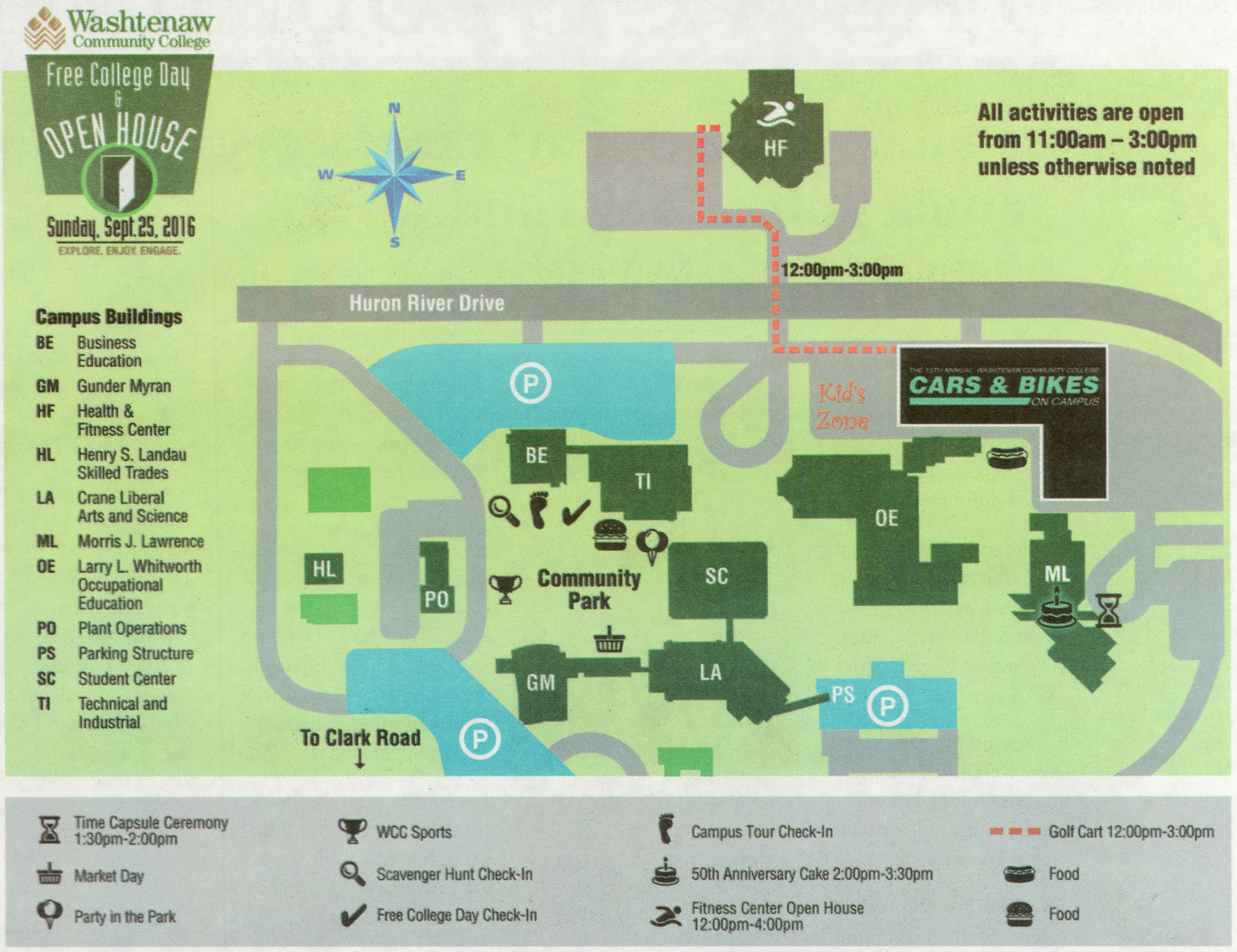
Rounding out the day will be the closing of a time capsule that will be sealed for another 25 years.

The Community Open House event begins at 11:00 a.m. with check in at the college's Community Park. Visitors can participate in a campus-wide scavenger hunt. What better way to explore campus? Treasure hunters completing the "hunt" will be entered to win one of two GoPro Hero video cameras.

For those interested in exploring the campus, visitors can tour state-of-the-art labs, learn fun facts about the college, and discover other points of interest.

Throughout the event in Community Park, there'll be cider and donuts, carnival food and a mini Frisbee Golf Course. The Entrepreneur Showcase gives guests an opportunity to support WCC's campus entrepreneurs as they feature their wares. Walk or take a short ride to The Health & Fitness Center to tour this award-winning facility.

Visitors also are welcome to attend the Time Capsule Ceremony at the entrance to the Morris Lawrence Building. There, items from this time period will be sealed in the metal capsule to be opened 25 years from now. All are then invited to enjoy a piece of 50th anniversary cake in the Morris Lawrence Building to officially close the college's 50th anniversary celebration. ●



Letter from the President

continued from cover

approval signifies more than dollars. It will allow WCC to continue to make a difference in the lives of our students and give them the resources and opportunities to realize their educational goals and dreams.

Each WCC student comes to our door with a footprint and timetable unique to their personal and professional journeys. It's our job to assure their needs and priorities are met and that they leave our doorstep knowledgeable, highly skilled and job ready.

What a year it's been! The college celebrated its 50th year with a theme of "Opening Doors." The anniversary year closes with the burial of a time capsule and a community open house on Sunday, Sept. 25, which you'll be hearing more about in the weeks ahead.

While we celebrated our impressive past, we also continue to look ahead. There's much about which to be optimistic.

WCC remains an affordable and accessible institution of higher learning, with a talented and dedicated faculty and staff ready to serve our students and the wider community.

Their work is reflected in the success of our students. Did you know, WCC students ranked higher than the national average in 10 academic areas, including math and English?

Also helping students and their families, we have held the line on costs. Tuition for in-county students for the new academic year currently underway is the same as it was last year. And student fees remain frozen for the fifth year in a row. That's an accomplishment that few colleges and universities can match.

Through strong relationships with business partners, we continue to repeat confidently our long-standing message: "What do you call someone who went to Washtenaw Community College? Employed!"

The millage approval is a wonderful way to end our 50th anniversary celebration and assure future generations of WCC students that there is great value in an education from Washtenaw Community College.

Let's all continue to "Keep Up the Good Work!" Our students and community members deserve nothing less. ●

WCC nature trail opens

Biology faculty member David A. Wooten and Washtenaw Community College President Dr. Rose B. Bellanca cut the ribbon last week in a ceremony marking completion of the WCC Nature Trail. The nearly two miles of campus trails are dotted with nine interpretive signs, designed and written by Wooten. A trailhead map was drawn by his former student, Adrianne Chissus, who now studies Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Cornell University. The nature trail is used by biology, geology, environmental science, art and photography students and faculty, as well as the general public.

PHOTO AND STORY BY JESSICA BIBBEE